



Take time to rest and just "be"

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St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

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Musing from the Manse

Time out for the summer



The school summer holidays have started, and for many this means we will take a holiday and have some much needed rest.

In the midst of our busy and demanding lives, it can be easy to overlook the importance of rest. However, the concept of Sabbath rest has been ingrained in our traditions for centuries, serving as a crucial reminder of God's instruction for us to pause, reflect, and recharge.

In the book of Genesis, we are reminded that even God rested on the seventh day after creating the world. This act not only demonstrates the importance of rest but also sets a powerful example for us to follow. By observing Sabbath rest, we honour God's design for our well-being and acknowledge our need for physical, mental, and spiritual rejuvenation.

Sabbath rest is not just about taking a day off from work; it is a holistic practice that involves slowing down, spending time with loved ones, nurturing our relationships, and reconnecting with our faith. It is a time to step back from the busyness of life, to reflect on our blessings, and to find peace in the presence of God.

When we embrace Sabbath rest, we create space in our lives for gratitude, mindfulness, and spiritual growth. We allow ourselves to be fully present in the moment, to appreciate the beauty of creation, and to cultivate a sense of inner peace that extends beyond the day of rest.

I often think that the summer holiday is to the year, what Sabbath rest is to the week. It gives us a time when there are fewer, or even better, no church meetings, fewer expectations on our time and an opportunity to prepare for the beginning of the next academic year.

So, as we navigate the challenges of our modern world, let us not forget the wisdom of Sabbath rest. Let us use this month when our diaries are less full to prioritize self-care, balance, and spiritual nourishment in our lives. May we embrace the gift of rest as a sacred practice that rejuvenates our body, mind, and soul, allowing us to live more fully and authentically in God's grace.

Louise

Live in such a way that if someone spoke badly about you, no one would ever believe it.

Activities Team update

More things to look forward to!



Coffee Morning with Craft Stalls – Saturday 3rd August, 10 am – 12 noon

We're hoping lots of folk will turn up for this Coffee Morning which will have extra stalls of various crafts. Do come along if you can to browse, meet friends and hopefully buy!

Dates for the diary:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning Saturday 14th September
- Poetry Evening Saturday 21st September

Ann Hammond

Film Club - Friday 9th August, 2.00 pm.

Unfortunately last month due to technical difficulties we were unable to show the film *Sunshine on Leith (PG)* so it will be screened in August. Home is where the heart is for two soldiers returning from duty in Afghanistan to their lifelong residence in Leith. This is a jubilant, heartfelt musical about the power of love, home and family and features the music of *The Proclaimers*.

Charity Cheque Presentation

At Coffee after Morning Worship on Sunday 1st September we will be presenting cheques to the two charities selected by church members for the year 2023, namely Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Service and My Harbour.



I went to visit a psychic. I knocked on the front door. She yelled, "Who is it?" So I left.

Prayers at Home

Bringing ourselves together in a moment of peace

Opening Sentences

Almighty God, in the quiet of these precious moments we come before You and feel Your calm presence around us.

We come with our sadness and our gladness, we come with our hopes and fears knowing that You are with us, comforting and strengthening us, loving us as Your children.

We come before You and feel Your all-encompassing love. **AMEN**



Gracious God, we seek Your forgiveness, renewal and blessing and the assurance that You welcome us home.

AMEN

Wherever we are, whatever the time, whatever the place let us say the prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples:

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name... For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Prayers of Confession and Assurance

Gracious and forgiving God, we confess that often our lives do not mirror the love of Jesus and our self-centredness is a poor example of how God intended His people to live.

Gracious and forgiving God, we confess that our insisting on our own way and our selfishness that breaks our fellowship with others must make You weep. We have used our lips to speak angry words and ignored the cries of those You sent us to help.

Gracious and forgiving God, open Your arms as we turn to You again, that every part of our lives we might live as Your children and speak of Your glory.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we pray for whom life is difficult. For those who are homeless and helpless, struggling to find food and shelter across all nations; where families are facing displacement and separation; where refugees are fleeing from cruelty and war. We pray for those who seek to support them with food and shelter, comfort and peace.

Loving God, We pray for those who carry worries for their health and the wellbeing of their loved ones; for those facing bereavement for those who are facing a crisis in their lives and a challenging path ahead. May they find courage and strength in

finding and knowing the love of God. We pray for those who support them with comfort and healing.

Loving God, we pray for those overwhelmed by the demands of work, and for those without employment, family, or a home. For those who struggle to find food and water for their families' needs; for those, across the world, where home is a shop doorway, park bench, by a railway track, or a makeshift shelter. We pray for those who work tirelessly to provide refuge, food and safety.

Loving God, we pray for our leaders at home and in other nations that they may recognise the plight of so many people in need near and far and, with integrity, end hunger and homelessness, war and destruction.

As the people of God, help us to give of ourselves. Help us to bring life to others. We pray in faith, hope and love for the courage to step forward and be heard with the call for justice and peace.

We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

Blessing

God, be with us on our journeys, Jesus, guide us in Your love, and the Holy Spirit gift us through each other to renew us as the people of God.

AMEN

Ann Sinclair

Inspiration: David Clowes: 500 Prayers for the Christian Year.

Junior Church Members

We hold in our prayers all Junior Church Members awaiting exam results in August. And for those others on vacation from colleges and universities – rest as much as you can!

Ann Sinclair (past Jr Church Leader)

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, rather the power to do as we ought. We all need a pure heart, an easy conscience and a sincere faith – that is freedom. The opposite is death.

Unknown

Special Church Meeting

Précis of meeting held 14 July 2024

Copies of the Minutes are displayed on the Notice Board in the vestibule of the Church. In case you were not able to be present here is a précis of the special meeting.

- Attendance: 41 members,
 3 others. Apologies for absence:
 4 members, 1 other.
- Special Meeting called at short notice to progress proposal for church repair work project.
- Repairs required to main church structure identified by Quinquennial inspection.
- Included are defective pointing of brickwork and copings, cracked brickwork, defective pointing and silicone sealant to windows and defects to stone window surrounds.
- Due to nature and extent of work Executive Team agreed that Graham Hatt, Gritstone Project Management, a consultant endorsed by Northern Synod, be



engaged to oversee the project (to be paid from Development Fund).

- Graham drew up detailed specification of work required and sought quotations for the work.
- Executive Team on 8th July agreed Graham's proposals and recommendation of Gunpoint NE at a total cost of £54,331. Finance Team on 9th July agreed to make £60k available.
- Development Fund Management Team proposed to Elders' Meeting on 11th July that the scheme go ahead and be funded from the Development Fund. Elders' Meeting concurred.
- Special Church Meeting on 14th July accepted the proposals for the work and the proposed funding arrangements.

Ray Hammond Church Secretary

"I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise, it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him."

CS Lewis (submitted by Pat Wardle)

Useful Info

A few things to take notice of



Home Library Service

'Your Library at your Doorstep' service. is being offered by the Royal Voluntary Service. Their Home Library Service will deliver a selection of books, large print books or audio books, free of charge direct to your door.

Contact 0191 643 5294 or libraries.athome@northtyneside.gov.uk or see poster on the church noticeboard.

Battery Disposal

A collection box for used batteries is now available in the Reception Area.

Evening Service Invitation

We are invited by St Columba's to join them at their monthly evening service at 6.30 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month.

This is a reflective service with music, prayer, scripture and reflection, with a variety of worship leaders, drawn from within the congregation and more widely.

St. Andrew's 100 Club

You have to be in it to win it!

The June draw took place on 30th June when Ann Hammond drew the following numbers:



With £212.50 going to Church funds

Kathleen Hopper

All in a year's study

Ann Sinclair reflects on her year on the Church Leadership Programme

Since September 23 until June 24, I have undertaken the Church Leadership Programme (CLP). This has been a programme to refresh, challenge and develop external skills to place Christian leadership within the context of vocation and ministry within the United Reformed Church within a personal sense of being. The group, 23/24, consisted of 6 participants (3 ordained ministers and 3 lay leaders) 2 tutors, a chaplain and a leader - a small group that formed a faith community committed to each other for encouragement and support. Alongside this each of us had an accompanier whom we met with regularly online. Worship was central to the course, alongside the development of community and personal reflection, all under the care of our tutors and chaplain to embed the spiritual, emotional and intellectual changes at the centre of CLP.

Part One of the programme concentrated on the personal qualities and skills which are core to a leader; Part Two focused on how these are translated within public leadership. Our studies, involved reading Scripture, focusing on the principals of St Benedict, and a range of other books, 2 residential weekends



and an overnight stay at Hinsley Hall Leeds. We also had 12 online sessions each calling for preparation, discussion and exercises. Part of the course involved each participant to choose their own particular personal development project. (PDP)



Ann with Revd. David Salisbury, Moderator, URC National Synod of Wales, and some of the CLP family.

This choice was a great concern to each of the participants. However, this was a project set up to allow each of us to have- 'time for me', (TFM) to have space and time for ourselves, which can so often be challenging in leadership roles. The projects chosen ranged from Couch to 5K, two of the group refreshed their

piano skills, while another member of the group set out to travel round URC churches in London by public transport (and finding how easy / difficult that was with a walking aid), another set a committed silent time at 4.45 each morning and for me quilting, something I had done before and had not touched for many years. I booked myself into classes and by the second week I was ready to throw my ruler and fat quarters (materials) in. Nevertheless, I persevered and continue to try and carve out that 'TFM'. I even have a 'travelling' set of quilting pieces I can dip into when quiet moments pop up! I have renewed my sewing skills and found great enjoyment.



"Court House Steps" quilting for the front of a tote bag using William Morris designed material.

Yet the PDF was not just about 'TFM' but also how we could transfer our skills in our learning from the project PDF to the CLP. And I have. In a presentation to the CLP family, I spoke of all the multifaceted aspects of life that would involve deconstruction and what happens to rebuild the situation. In quilting, taking something that is whole cutting the required measurements and shapes and piecing them together to create a new piece can be reflected in life experience, facing change and sometime chaos for something new and fitting to emerge.

On finishing the course each of the group received certificates.

The CLP is no more (nothing to do with this last group!) for the present time.

But September 23-June 24 was a time for a space of gentle support, a space of dear friendship among the group and tutors; space and place of learning to apply the knowledge and find opportunities to use the learning in the name of our Lord enabling a way of life, through faith in our communities through thoughtful leadership. For me the time has been a space and place of reflection and study that has prompted new ways of my thinking of what it means to be a church leader.

Ann Sinclair

For reflection: Extinguishing someone else's light won't make yours shine brighter, and only increases the darkness.

General Assembly 2024

A long weekend of essential business at "The Hayes" conference centre



A few months ago, our Minister Louise asked me about attending General Assembly 24 ("GA"). I have never been to Assembly before. Looking through the Book of Reports, all 396 pages of business, GA seemed somewhat overwhelming. However, there was support prior to GA in a group meeting of the Northern Synod delegates and a national support group available online. Alongside this, and throughout the time at GA, Louise and the Moderator of Northern Synod, Revd. Kim Plumpton, ensured care for all those in the Northern Synod Group.

From Friday 12th July to Monday 15thJuly it was very much business of the days with a range of papers and resolutions brought forward for discussion, debate and voting. The extent of the Papers demonstrated the range of subjects that included financial to education and learning, brought forward as essential to the structure of the wider URC. Some Papers were straightforward while others raised a variety of emotions for and against. To me this illustrated the multifaceted differences of deep-seated opinions amona Members of the URC and the rationale underpinning the deepseated opinions of those who spoke

out and voted either way on the Resolutions. The work of the Committees preparing the Resolutions demonstrated the depth of care and attention of such Members and their profoundness of thought. While the range of discussions and debates in the wider debates illustrated the complexity and depth of differences, and seemed to me to symbolise the ethos of the URC. We are all the same as followers of Christ but each of us can be different in our opinions but there is our faith in God as central.



Louise being greeted by URC Moderator, the Revd. Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson (Photo credit: Lucy Cooke)

Along with other newly ordained and inducted ministers, our Minister Louise stepped forward to be greeted by the Moderator, the Revd. Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson. At that particular point the etiquette of whether to applaud or not seemed to hover...so for Louise and a few others there was silence and that was a great pity...I wanted to shout! All I say is: Louise, silence is golden and silence can speak volumes. Here at St Andrew's we are blessed in having you as our minister. YEH!!!!

The extent of the knowledge of the General Secretary and the (outgoing) Clerk to General Assembly impressed me. They both carried their roles with the letter of the URC laws, a sense of humour and a touch, when called for, firmness.

Worship threaded through General Assembly and Members from all corners of the UK came together to share their faith in song, prayer and Bible study.

As is well known the URC are renowned for coming around a table and sharing food and we did and this presented opportunities to meet new people, put faces to names only ever seen in print, time to catch up with friends from other parts of the country and getting to know others in the Northern Synod Group better.

Lam still overwhelmed. This was a Church Meeting on a grand scale. GA represented the wider structure of the URC to allow the URC a voice in the UK and in the world. Those overseeing the business of GA and the work of the Committee Members demonstrated the depth of faith and dedication of caring passionately of the love of God, faith and hope, and this is reflected among those who oversee the business of local churches and those who work tirelessly on local Committees. The depth of faith, hope and love that is central and allencompassing in the URC was at GA in full display.

Ann Sinclair

Remote in Church

Mrs. Smart was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle.

The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?"

"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

Memories of 80 years ago

Joyce Coulson recalls her time in London during the war

Public Domain / Wikimedia

I lived in Outer London when the Second World War started, about 10 minutes walk from my school, with the walk talking me past the local Vicarage. One day a bomb dropped in the Vicarage garden, but didn't explode. The school didn't close so we had to make a detour of about half a mile to avoid it. That was four times a day as there were no school dinners in those days.

During the Battle of Britain I was coming home one lunchtime and

there was a dog fight with planes wheeling overhead and lots of gunfire till they eventually moved on.

Another time during an air raid we looked out of the shelter during a lull in the bombing and saw a German parachuting down, caught up in the search lights scanning the sky.

These memories are as vivid today as they were over 80 years ago.

Joyce Coulson

Maximilian Kolbe

A Polish priest and Franciscan, he was arrested by the Nazis and taken to Auschwitz. A single man, he gave his life in substitution for a fellow prisoner who had a wife and family. He was beatified and his saint's day is 14 August.

Kolbe Quotes

- Let us remember that love lives through sacrifice and is nourished by giving. Without sacrifice there is no love.
- The Cross is the school of love.

- A single act of love makes the soul return to life.
- The deadliest poison of our time is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise him to the greatest extent of our powers.
- Jesus remains among us until the end of the world. He dwells on so many altars, though so often offended and profaned.

Summer Bible Study a 5 week course

Exploring the first letter of John

Led by Trevor Jamison & Louise Sanders



Image by vecstock on Freepik

St Andrew's URC Monkseaton: Mondays at 2pm July 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19

Online Zoom: Mondays from 7.15pm July 22, 29, August 5,12,19 Meeting ID: 827 7096 6099

St Columba's URC North Shields: **Thursdays at 7.15pm** July 25, August 1,8,15,22

Choose a day or venue that suits you and come along when or where you can. Feel free to mix and match the venue or time that suits your schedule.

For more information, please contact either: Rev Dr Trevor Jamison: minister.northshieldsURC@gmail.com

Rev Louise Sanders: louise.sanders208@gmail.com

Winning our possessions

Ownership is an empty thing when compared to possession



Goethe, a great German writer, artist, and politician once wrote, "That which thy fathers have bequeathed to thee, win it anew if thou wouldst possess it." Owning is not possessing. Let us suppose you are the inheritor of an ancestral estate with spacious woodlands and lovely gardens – all yours, but the title deeds in a safe do not constitute possession. They only mean ownership. Strangers may pass through your estate and if the beauty of it all speaks to their souls, but it has no message for you, they more truly possess it than you do.

So it is with everything that comes to us, whether by inheritance or purchase. Who really possesses a picture – the millionaire who paid millions for it, but cannot appreciate it, or a poor art student to whom it is charged with meaning? Or perhaps a volume of Shakespeare; if you have it on your shelves but haven't read it, what use is it that it "belongs to you?" Ownership is an empty thing when compared with possession! This principle has special application to all the greatest things of life. Think, for example, of the precious inheritance

of freedom which has come to us from the past. It is ours in the sense that it has been bequeathed by our ancestors, but it is only really ours when we "win it anew" and when we prove ourselves worthy of it by showing the self-same spirit which marked those who laboured and died to make it possible.

The difference between ownership

matters of faith. A creed which we

and possession is strikingly seen in

take over from earlier generations may mean nothing to us. It is of no use to us unless we appreciate the vital experience which led to its formation. Faith is a great gift something received - a gift which is ours apart from our own merit or effort. But it is also something which has to be won - a great acquisition and there is no contradiction between the two points of view. It is significant that the words of Jesus, "Come to Me... and I will give you rest," are immediately followed by "Learn of me and you will find rest." That is, it has to be found as well as received.

Postcards from the edge – please send in a few photos, stories and anecdotes from your holidays, especially the amusing ones!

Church Calendar

A few dates for early September



SEPTEMBER 2024					
Sunday	1	Communion Service; Revd Louise Sanders . Charity cheque presentation.	11.00 am		
		Evening Worship; Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm		
Friday	6	Executive Team Meeting	10.30 am		
Saturday	7	NO COFFEE MORNING TODAY (replaced by Coffee Morning on the 14 th in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support).			
		Elders' Training Day at Rothbury	10.00 am		

From the Book of Remembrance

Remembering those who have gone before us

Ada Corby Molly Yarrow

Rene Bridges Robert Foster Barbour George Dudgeon Russell

Annie (Nancy) Adamson

Saunders

Betty and Norman Buckle

Apologies for the absence of the Book of Remembrance for the past couple of editions of Newstand. In trying to fit things in I inadvertently put it to one side and then forgot to re-add it.

Tim

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism! It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

Prayer Diary and Lectionary

Weekly prayers and lectionary readings from the URC



4	Churches: St Andrew's, Benton LEP; Revd Gavin Hume. Church of the Good Shepherd, Battle Hill; Revd Julie Mooney.	Proper 13 Year B 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13a; Psalm 51.1- 12; Ephesians 4.1-16; John 6.24-35
11	Rural Ministry: Rural Consultant; Revd Ian Ring.	Proper 14 Year B 2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4.25-5.2; John 6.35,45-51
18	Mission Projects: Redcar Missional House overseen by Revd Dr Sue Walker. Grindon Community Church; John and Kati Whiteoak.	Proper 15 Year B 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58
25	Safeguarding Officers: Matt Knowles, Helen Berg, Carrie Kaunda, Admin Support: Paula Kitson.	Proper 15 Year B 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5.15-20; John 6.51-58

You'll have noticed the inclusion of the Lectionary Readings in the past few copies of Newstand. Hopefully you will find it useful to be able to follow what the readings each week will be. Note that worship leaders may not use all of them, or may use different readings if they are more appropriate to their theme.

It's still Holiday Time!

If you're down on the rota and going away, make sure to swap with someone



ELDERS: Vestry Ann Hammond

Reception Val Taylor **Communion** Carole Mallett

STEWARDS: Vestibule Sandra Pine Finance Kathleen Hopper

Sunday 4th Organ Helen Storey

Readers: Jennifer Fleetham; Mary Christopher

Prayers: Chris Hales

Tuesday 6th Prayers Carole Mallett

Sunday 11th Organ Hymnal

Readers: Ann Stembridge; Susan Anderson

Prayers Val Taylor

Tuesday 13th Prayers Ann Sinclair

Sunday 18th Organ Paul Hartley

Readers: Jean Jackson; Tim Cooke

Prayers Hazel Hall

Tuesday 20th Prayers Sandra Pine

Sunday 25th Organ Alex

Readers: Iain Ord; Joan Blanchfield

Prayers Ann Hammond

Tuesday 27th Prayers Una Ketteridge

September Newstand

Due to holidays, the next edition of Newstand will be out on 1st September.

Please have contributions to Tim by 26th August.

Church Calendar for August

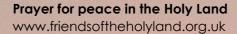
Sunday services are streamed via YouTube for those not able to attend in person or just to watch again in your own time (search for "monkseatonurc"). Following Sunday morning worship, refreshments are served in the Main Hall.

Midweek Worship: Tuesday 10 am followed by Open Door Coffee Morning. **Open Door Coffee Morning:** Thursday 10.30 am - Noon.

Thursday	1	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Saturday	3	Coffee Morning with Craft Stalls	10.00 am
Sunday	4	Communion Service: Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
		Evening Worship: Revd Louise Sanders	6.30 pm
Monday	5	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
Wednesday	7	Worship Group meeting NOTE TIME	2.00 pm
Thursday	8	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Friday	9	Executive Team Meeting	10.30 am
		Film Club -'Sunshine on Leith'	2.00 pm
Sunday	11	Morning Worship: Revd Peter Moth	11.00 am
Monday	12	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
Thursday	15	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Sunday	18	'Let's Sing' – Mandy Watson	10.00 am
		Prayer Group – Mandy Watson	10.30 am
		Morning Worship: Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Monday	19	Bible Study at St Andrew's	2.00 pm
		Bible Study via Zoom	7.15 pm
Thursday	22	Bible Study at St Columba's	7.15 pm
Sunday	25	Communion Service: Revd Pat Wardle	9.30 am
		Morning Worship: Revd Louise Sanders	11.00 am
Saturday	31	Induction of Revd Kay Blackwell at Wooler URC, Cheviot Street, Wooler, NE71 6LP, for St Cuthbert's Centre Project on Holy Island.	2.00 pm
	Se	e page 15 for early September calendar	

Pause in this moment

A place for prayers, thoughts and poems



Two peoples, one land,
Three faiths, one root,
One earth, one mother,
One sky, one beginning,
one future, one destiny,
One broken heart, One God.
We pray to You: Grant us a vision of unity.
May we see the many in the one
and the one in the many.
May you, Life of All the Worlds,
Source of All Amazing Differences,
help us to see clearly.
Guide us gently and firmly toward each
other, toward peace.
Amen

By Rabbi Sheila Weinberg

